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Registers in Singing. Empirical and Systematic Studies in the Theory of the Singing Voice

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STELLINGEN

behorend bij het proefschrift van D.G. Miller

Registers in Singing

Empirical and Systematic Studies in the Theory of the Singing Voice

- 1 The task of science, when applied to singing technique, is to describe in objective terms the (physiologic, aerodynamic, and acoustic) mechanisms employed by singers, not to predict their behavior or set normative standards. (Chapter 1)
- 2 The sound of 'cover,' whose origin is in the need to bridge the gap between the natural registers, is expected by connoisseurs of operatic singing. (Chapter 7)
- 3 Generalizing on the basis of the singing behavior of untrained or slightly trained persons cannot reveal much about the strategies of the highly skilled. (Chapter 4)
- 4 Scientific investigation of the singing voice is limited by the fact that most 'knowledge' includes a subjective element of experience that remains hidden from the outside (non-singer) observer. (Chapter 1)
- 5 The expert ear remains the judge of the singer's sound. (Chapter 10)
- 6 In the four centuries since virtuosic singing appeared in Italy, the demands composers make on the singing voice have changed, but the vocal organs have remained virtually the same. (Stark, *Bel Canto*, Toronto, 1999)
- 7 Sports medicine, which attends to exceptional function, is a good model for the practical application of voice science to the professional singing voice, but singing receives too little attention.

- 8 Features of musical instruments that might be seen as acoustic defects become their distinguishing characteristics, and technical 'improvements' that have not preserved those features have not survived. (Fletcher and Rossing, *The Physics of Musical Instruments*, New York, 1998)
- 9 There is a contradiction between the ideal of the social democratic state, which strives for equality among all members of the body politic, and the ideal of extending 'brotherhood' to all mankind.
- 10 Reforming the structure of higher education is less effective than improving the effectiveness of individual programs with quality and quantity of staff.
- 11 The concept of play, which Huizinga develops for art, law, war, etc., can be extended to research, making 'fun' one of its important motives. (Huizinga, *Homo Ludens*, Groningen, 1985)
- 12 'Departmental thinking,' which constructs research paradigms that facilitate typical research within a limited field, is a hindrance in dealing with a multi-disciplinary topic, such as voice.
- 13 The perceived expertise of the investigator has no place in the model scientific experiment, but plays a large role in peer review.